

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 091445Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3286

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: GOB MOVES TO CONSTITUTE EMBASSY IN LUANDA;

CRITICAL EDITORIALS CONTINUE;

FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY SAYS MPLA VICTORIES SHOW GOB

WAS RIGHT

SUMMARY: GOB ANNOUNCED JANUARY 6 FORMAL STEPS TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY
IN ANGOLA ALONG WITH FIVE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WHILE FOREIGN

MINISTRY SOURCES WERE QUOTED IN PRESS AS CLAIMING MOVE SERVED
FURTHER TO RATIFY ANGOLAN POLICY, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD
EMBOFF THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY IN ANGOLA WAS AUTOMATIC
ADMINISTRATIVE STEP. PRESS CONTINUED TO INVEIGH AGAINST FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S AFRICA POLICY EMPHASIZING POTENTIAL THREAT TO SECURITY
OF SOUTH ATLANTIC. UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES WERE QUOTED
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JANUARY 7 AS CLAIMING RECENT MPLA VICTORIES HAVE VINDICATED

GOB POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS JANUARY 6 REPORTED THAT THE GOB HAD, THROUGH PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE THE DAY BEFORE, AUTHORIZED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, LESOTHO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, AND UPPER VOLTA. VARIOUS PAPERS SAW THE MEASURE AS A RE-ENDORSEMENT OF BRAZIL'S ANGOLAN POLICY, AND ITAMARATY (FOREIGN MINISTRY) SOURCES WERE QUOTED TO THAT EFFECT: ONE OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY CALLED THE MOVE "THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP FOR BRAZILIAN-ANGOLAN APPROXIMATION SINCE THE RECOGNITION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT LAST NOVEMBER". FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF OF AFRICA AND ASIA DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, TOLD EMBOFF THAT CREATION OF EMBASSY IN LUANDA WAS PART OF ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE TO FORMALIZE RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH BRAZIL HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS DURING PAST FEW MONTHS. HE EXPLAINED THAT ONCE BRAZIL ASSUMES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, UNDER ITS INTERNAL PRACTICES PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE MUST BE ISSUED ESTABLISHING EMBASSY, SINCE GOB DOES NOT HAVE LEGATIONS OR OTHER LOWER LEVEL GRADATIONS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF DECEMBER 31 IS FOR BUDGETARY NOT POLITICAL REASONS. HE BELIEVED THAT BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE FORMALLY NAMED TO BOTH ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE WITHIN NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS, NOTING THAT EARLIER APPOINTMENT WOULD STILL HAVE TO AWAIT APPROVAL OF CONGRESS WHICH NOW IN RECESS UNTIL MARCH. CHARGE IN LUANDA, OVIDIO DE MELO, HE ADDED, RETURNED TO BRAZIL THREE OR FOUR DAYS AGO TO BEGIN HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT. AFRICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF DOUBTED MELO WOULD RETURN BECAUSE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE "IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S TURN NOW TO ENDURE HARDSHIPS OF LUANDA."

2. EDITORIALS IN RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL ON JANUARY 3 AND JANUARY 7 AND IN O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO ON JANUARY 4 CONTINUED ASSAULT ON GOB'S ANGOLAN POLICY. JORNAL JANUARY 3 STATES THAT ITAMARATY INSISTS ON THE FICTION THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO DISASSOCIATE BRAZILIAN AFRICAN POLICY FROM BRAZILIAN SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND DECLARES BRAZILIAN POLICY IN THIS AREA SHOULD DISAPPROVE ANY MILITARY SITUATION THAT IS A POTENTIAL RISK TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ROUTES, NOTING THAT THE OPPOSITE IS WHAT IS OCCURRING. THE EDITORIAL QUESTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE VALUE OF DIPLOMATIC FRIENDSHIP IN WEST AFRICA IF THE PRICE IS TO BE THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET BASES ACROSS FROM THE BRAZILIAN COAST. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT A POLICY OF AUTOMATEC NON-ALIGNMENT IS INSUFFICIENT IN SUCH SITUATIONS AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO LOOK TO BRAZIL'S NATURAL MILITARY ALLIES--SUCH AS THE U.S.--FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. RETURNING TO THE ATTACK THE SAME DAY, THE JORNAL DO BRASIL STATES THAT GOB'S ANGOLAN POSITION PUTS

BRAZIL NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE WEST BUT THE SOVIET-CUBAN, AND ADDS BRAZIL'S MAIN CONCERN SHOULD BE WITH THE SECURITY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. ALTHOUGH BRAZIL FINDS THE RACISM OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE REPUGNANT, THE EDITORIAL GOES ON, PRETORIA IS NOT A THREAT TO BRAZIL'S SECURITY.

3. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO JANUARY 4 EDITORIALIZED THAT THE POLICY OF ITAMARATY SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE RECOGNITION OF ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE, A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS AND PLEDGES OF FUTURE COLLABORATION--ALL SENT SIMULTANEOUSLY TO THE THREE INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS. THE EDITORIAL WARNS THAT THE VICTORY OF THE MPLA MEANS THE INSTALLATION OF SOVIET AIR AND NAVAL BASES IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, THE JUGULAR VEIN OF THE POLITICAL ECONOMIC LIFE OF BRAZIL.

4. A CRITICAL EDITORIAL IN SAO PAULO'S O GLOBO OF JANUARY 6 ALSO SAID THE GOB SHOULD HAVE MAINTAINED AN EVEN-HANDED POSTURE TOWARDS ALL THREE MOVEMENTS AND MAINTAINED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH ALL OF THE GROUPS. DECLARING THAT IN AN ABRUPT MOVE "THAT PRETENDED TO BE ONE OF DIPLOMATIC ABILITY, GOB VIRTUALLY SUPPORTED THE MPLA".

5. JORNAL DE BRASILIA JANUARY 7 DEFENDED THE POLICY ASSERTING THAT ONE BRAZIL RECOGNIZED ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE IT HAD TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN THE CAPITAL NO MATTER WHO WAS OCCUPYING THE CITY AND CLAIMING THE OPPOSITE WOULD HAVE BEEN INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE. THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT THE ELEVATION OF THE MISSION IN LUANDA TO THE LEVEL OF AN EMBASSY WAS A DEMONSTRATION, CLEAR AND SIMPLE, THAT BRAZIL BELIEVES IN THE FUTURE OF THE EX-COLONIES AND WISHES TO LIVE WITH THEM IN MUTUAL RESPECT.

6. VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS JANUARY 7 CITED ITAMARATY SOURCES AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIMING THAT THE MPLA'S RECENT MILITARY VICTORIES SHOWED THE CORRECTNESS OF THE RECOGNITION DECISION.
CRIMMINS

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